

INTRODUCTION: Message - "Teach Us To Pray" (Luke 11:1)

Observe what happens when a parent walks down the cookie aisle of the grocery store, or comes too near the toy section that is strategically placed near the clothing. Here you will see fervent prayer in action! "Mommy... PLEASE!!" The child grabs the parent's ankle as if to imitate Jacob wrestling with the Angel... and sometimes they win! And so it goes. But such praying and petitioning places "self" at the core of the prayer. What should prayer look like and sound like? What did Jesus have in mind for his disciples AND us?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Compare Luke 11:2-4 with Matthew 6:9-13 and surrounding scriptures. What clues do you find that these are two separate events?
2. Read Matthew 15:7-9. Jesus didn't mince words. What does this say to you about the difference between having religion verses having a relationship?
3. Scofield (of Scofield's Study Bible) had this to say about prayer: "Prayer, therefore, is a child's petition to an all-wise, all-loving, and all-powerful, Father-God." Do you agree with this statement? Why do you think he uses the phrase "a child's petition"?
4. Have you ever experienced times when prayer is done more out of obligation and duty rather than just simply desiring to commune with God? If so, why do suppose that is? Can you recognize the signs and ways to prevent those "dry" seasons?
5. Read Luke 10:38-42. How does being busy serving God's people distract from the needful part? Can our church-house duties *get in the way* of worshipping God?

SO WHAT?:

In Luke 11:1, it says: "... one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples." Matthew Henry said in his commentary: "**Lord, teach us to pray, is itself a good prayer**, and a very needful one, for it is a hard thing to pray well and it is Jesus Christ only that can teach us, by his word and Spirit, how to pray. 'Lord, teach me what it is to pray; Lord, excite and quicken me to the duty; Lord, direct me what to pray for; Lord, give me praying graces, that I may serve God acceptably in prayer; Lord, teach me to pray in proper words; give me a mouth and wisdom in prayer, that I may speak as I ought; teach me what I shall say.' "

THINK ABOUT IT:

"(2) Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. (3) My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." (Psalms 5:2-3, KJV)